

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Purpose and goals

The School of Public Policy's professional development programs and curriculum provide students with access to the requisite skills and knowledge for career success, help students attain an understanding of complex organizational settings, and boosts students' confidence to apply those skills essential to future success.

Objectives

1. Provide students with relevant experiences to refine job interests and apply classroom skills.
2. Expand student perspective about the factors that enhance public policy leadership effectiveness.
3. Help students engage with successful members of the public policy community.

Professional Development for the Workplace

Focus: To provide students with the skills to successfully navigate their internship, capstone, and job search, as well as develop into leaders in public policy organizations with topics such as:

- Tips for being successful in an internship or first job
- How to make a social media presence professional
- Elements of an effective job search and interview
- Perspectives from the hiring side of the desk
- Navigating difficult conversations
- Communicating policy research
- Power of mentorships
- Leading change
- Emotional intelligence
- Leading with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion

Presenters: School of Public Policy faculty and staff, the College of the Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network staff, alumni, and other invited guests.

Frequency: Monthly; third Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. ET

Exploring Diverse Careers in Public Policy

Focus: To have professionals introduce students to various career paths and how they have leveraged their public policy training in their careers. Discussions address day-to-day operations, how a role impacts policy, how individuals have made an impact, and advice for students in their careers.

Past presenters:

- Joe Marie
- Natalie Krug

Presenters: Alumni and friends of the School of Public Policy

Frequency: Monthly; second Wednesday from 3:00–3:45 p.m. ET

NOTE: All sessions will be recorded with the permission of the presenter and will be archived in our professional development library and shared on YouTube.





Mentoring

While the School of Public Policy's MPP program is still developing its formal mentoring process, the director of professional development and student engagement serves as the point of contact to connect students with interested alumni or field mentors. The school will facilitate an introduction and leave follow-up and ongoing maintenance of the relationship to the mentor and mentee.

Guest Lectures

Opportunities exist for guest lecturers in the classroom. Alumni and friends who express interest in this opportunity should meet with the director of professional development and student engagement to identify topics of interest. As faculty members seek guest lecturers to support classroom contact, the School of Public Policy will facilitate connections.

Internships and Capstone Projects

The School of Public Policy welcomes alumni and friends from organizations willing to host an internship or capstone project. The internship curriculum requires a minimum of 300 hours, and they are usually conducted in the summer semester but can be available throughout the year. Those who have an interest in hosting internships or capstone projects should work with the director of professional development and student engagement to discuss opportunities.



Profiles: Joe Marie
Penn State School of Public Policy



Questions?

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